

BOSTON MALACOLOGICAL CLUB

The Boston Malacological Club has held its meetings as usual, during the past season, in the Library of the Boston Society of Natural History, on the first Tuesday evening of each month, from October to May, inclusive.

At the first meeting the Club was addressed by Dr. Carlos G. Aguayo, of Havana, who spoke on the distribution of land-shells in Cuba, emphasizing the richness of the island as a collecting ground, where twelve hundred species can be found.

Dr. Joseph C. Bequaert, of the Department of Tropical Medicine, Harvard Medical School, was the speaker at the November meeting, his subject being African land-mollusks. He spoke especially of the sub-family Achatininae, which is found only in Africa, and which numbers fourteen genera.

The December meeting was addressed by Dr. David L. Belding, who gave a paper on "Cycles in Animal Life, and the Salmon Fishery".

In January the Club listened to a paper by its President, Prof. Francis N. Balch, entitled "Shells and Human Pre-history". After a rapid survey of the geological periods before human life appeared on the earth, he told of the remains of primitive man and his cultures, which have been found, especially of those in the south of France, and of the shells discovered in the burial places.

Mr. William J. Clench, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard, spoke at the February meeting on the land-mollusks of the Solomon Islands. After giving an account of this little-known group of islands their position and extent, he showed that though the islands are rich in material little work has been done there, and collections of native shells are scarce. Harvard possesses as representative a collection as any. A series shown by Mr. Clench excited much interest.

The March meeting was a departure from the usual course; two members, Miss Seymour and Miss Sawyer acting as hostesses at what might be termed a "quiz-party" on

the subjects covered at the season's meetings that far. The meeting closed after the showing of a movie-film of cuttlefish and octopus in their native haunts.

For the April meeting the members were the guests of the Boston Aquarium Society at Teachers' College, where Mr. Orrin C. Bourn, of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission, spoke on the fish-ladders, which, since the advent of many mills, have been constructed in sluice-ways in order to aid such fish as salmon, alewives, shad, and white perch, to pass from the ocean to the spawning ponds.

The speaker in May was Mr. Clench who told of the sources from which the land-shells of the Philippines were derived. While there are no present continental types to be found on the true Pacific Islands, comprising the remote groups, the land mollusks of the Philippines trace their ancestry to four sources, two being from Borneo, one from Papua, by way of Gilolo, and one from Formosa. A collection of shells, chiefly of the genera *Helicostyla*, *Amphidromus*, *Camaena* and *Leptopoma* added to the interest of the paper. Plans for the Club's field meeting in June were discussed. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Mr. Charles W. Johnson.

Vice-President, Miss Mildred Seymour.

Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Theodora Willard.

Conchological Recorder, Mr. S. N. F. Sanford.

Executive Committee, Miss Madalene B. Sawyer, Mr. William J. Clench.

THEODORA WILLARD, *Secretary*.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

A NEWLY DISCOVERED WEST INDIAN MOLLUSK FAUNULA. By Paul Bartsch. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 81, Art. 6, 1932.) Beata Island, off the southern point of Haiti, proves to have a rich land shell fauna special to the island, though only about 6 miles from the main island. Fourteen new species in almost as many genera are described.